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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/502,104

09/19/2005

Dror Shemesh

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05/13/2008

APPLIED MATERIALS, INC.

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EXAMINER

JOHNSTON, PHILLIP A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2881

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

05/13/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/502,104	Applicant(s) SHEMESH ET AL.	
	Examiner PHILLIP A. JOHNSTON	Art Unit 2881	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 November 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5, 9-17 and 19-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5, 9-17, and 19-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 19 September 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Detailed Action

1. This Office Action is submitted in response to Amendment filed 11-21-2007, wherein claims 6-8 and 18 have been canceled and claims 1-5, 9, 13-17, and 19 are amended. Claims 1-5, 9-17, and 19-21 are pending.

Examiners Response to Arguments

2. Applicants arguments are moot in view of new grounds for rejection necessitated by the applicant's amendment.

Claims Rejection – 35 U.S.C. 103

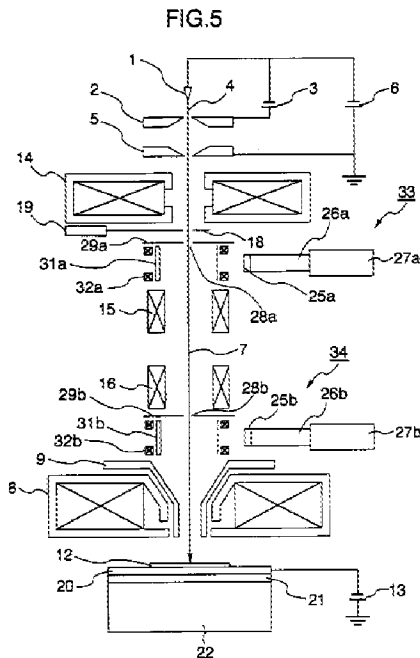
3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which the subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-3, 5, 9-11, 13-17, and 19-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over USPN 6,084,238 to Todokoro.

5. Regarding claim 13, Todokoro discloses an apparatus in Figure 5 below having;

(a) a primary electron beam 7 and a column through which the beam propagates to sample 12. See Col. 5, line 15-26,



(b) upper and lower deflectors 15 and 16, located upstream and downstream of interior (in-lens) detectors 33 and 34 respectively. Col. 8, line 22-34. Deflectors 15 and 16 are scanning deflectors, which one of ordinary skill would recognize are deflectors that deflect the primary beam across the sample 12 in a series of parallel axial (spaced apart) trajectories. See Col. 5, line 45-53.

(c) sample 12 is located in the gap of the objective lens 8, where a high (substantial) electric field is introduced. Col. 8, line 15-21,

(d) impinging the primary beam on sample 12 to generate secondary electrons, that include reflected and scattered which are extracted into an aperture of the objective lens by the electric field applied across the objective lens and the sample where they are directed up through acceleration tube 9 towards one of the interior detectors. Col. 2, line 20-25; and Col. 5, line 15-26.

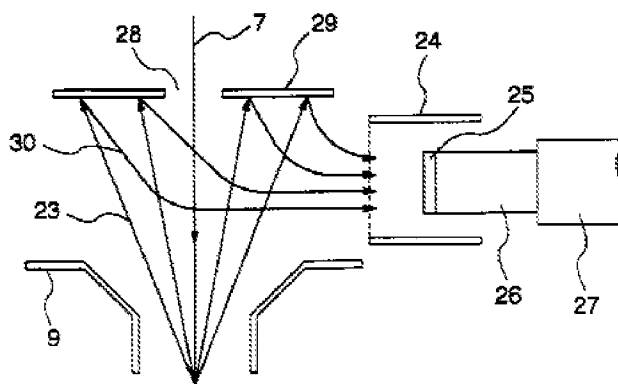
Regarding the wherein limitation, Todokoro discloses generating secondary electrons from sample 12 having initial trajectories in various directions, as shown in Figure 2 below. See Col. 6, line 40-67.

However, Todokoro fails to teach the trajectory of at least some of the electrons is substantially coincident with one of the first and second optical axis.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill that the trajectories of secondary electrons resulting from impinging the primary beam 7 are reflected or scattered at many varying angles some of which are shown in Figure 2 below.

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that impinging the primary beam on a sample in accordance with Todokoro would provide at least some of the electrons generated with trajectories that are substantially coincident with the optical axis of the primary beam.

FIG.2



6. Regarding claim 1, Todokoro discloses the apparatus used in this method claim, as pointed out above regarding claim 13.

7. Regarding claims 2 and 14, Todokoro discloses at Col. 4, line 64-67; and Col. 5, line 1-13, applying a negative superimposed voltage 13 to the sample 18 (a first voltage potential difference between the inspected object and a first portion of the column) and applying a post acceleration voltage 10 to acceleration tube 9 (a second voltage potential difference between a second portion of the column and the inspected object).

8. Regarding claims 3 and 15, Todokoro discloses at Col. 6, line 13-29, that voltage 13 is 500V and voltage 10 is 1000V. Also as shown in Figure 1, the first portion of the column is positioned below the second portion.

9. Regarding claims 5 and 17, Todokoro teaches the use of different detector collection zones. See Col. 9, line 36-43.

10. Regarding claims 9 and 19, Todokoro teaches an inspected area of the inspected object is positioned within the substantial electrostatic lens (note Figure 4); and Col. 8, line 16-21.

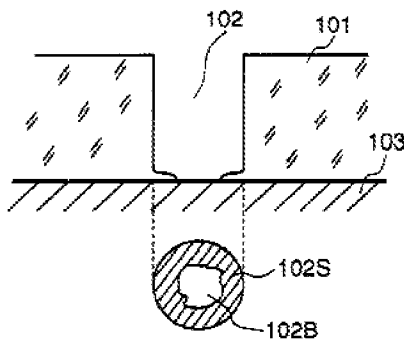
11. Regarding claims 10, 11, and 20, Todokoro teaches tilting the sample and measuring the inclination. Col. 14, line 5-15.

12. Claims 4,12,16, and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,084,238 to Todokoro, in view of Todokoro, U.S. Patent No. 6,635,873.

13. Todokoro (238) fails to disclose processing the received detection signals to provide an indication about a defect or a process variation; and wherein detected electrons include electrons from a lower portion of a high aspect ratio hole.

14. Todokoro (873) teaches observing residue at the bottom of a high aspect ratio contact hole. See Figure 14b below; Col. 2, line 8-18; and Col. 5, line 39-49.

FIG. 14B



15. Todokoro (873) modifies Todokoro (238) to provide a technique for displaying the condition of a contact hole formed in an insulator on the display screen of a scanning electron microscope.

16. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that Todokoro (238) would use the contact hole imaging technique of Todokoro (873) to provide a scanning electron microscope for observing the bottom of a contact hole formed on an observation sample such as an IC.

Conclusion

17. The Amendment filed on 11-21-2007 has been considered but the arguments are moot in view of new grounds for rejection.

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

18. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications should be directed to Phillip Johnston whose telephone number is (571) 272-2475. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 7:00 am to 4:00 pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor Robert Kim can be reached at (571) 272-2293. The fax phone number for the organization where the application or proceeding is assigned is 571 273 8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.


For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

PJ

May 1, 2008

/ROBERT KIM/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2881

<div>Application Number</div> <div></div>	Application/Control No.	Applicant(s)/Patent under Reexamination	
	10/502,104	SHEMESH ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	PHILLIP A. JOHNSTON	2881	